

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 /031 W
-----098582 310918Z /15

P R 310601Z JAN 78
FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7204
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 0220

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, SF, US
SUBJECT: EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES SURVEY; OWENS-ILLINOIS

REF: (A) JOHANNESBURG 194, (B) JOHANNESBURG 119, (C) 77 STATE
226461

1. CONSOLIDATED GLASS WORKS LIMITED, ONE OF THE LARGEST COMPANIES IN SOUTH AFRICA WITH 6,000 EMPLOYEES, WHICH IS ASSOCIATED WITH OWENS-ILLINOIS INC. OF TOEDO OHIO, WAS INCLUDED IN THE STRATIFIED SAMPLE OF 40 U.S. SUBSIDIARIES CURRENTLY BEING SURVEYED. (ACCORDING TO A FEBRUARY 1976 REPLY BY CONSOLIDATED TO A QUESTIONNAIRE FROM THE COMMERICAL SECTION, OWENS-ILLINOIS CONTROLS 20 PERCENT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN FIRM'S CAPITAL.)

2. MANAGING DIRECTOR J.C. ROBBERTZE REPLIED ON JANUARY 25 TO INQUIRY REGARDING FIRM'S WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE VOLUNTARILY IN SURVEY AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE: THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF 20 JANUARY 1978. CONSOLIDATED GLASS
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WORKS LIMITED IS NOT A SUBSIDIARY OF A U.S. CORPORATION AND WHILE I BELIEVE OUR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES ARE KEENLY COMPETITIVE WITH THOSE OF THE LEADING AMERICAN COMPANIES IN SOUTH AFRICA, I DO NOT PROPOSE TO RESPOND TO YOUR QUESTIONNAIRE. END QUOTE.

3. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONFIRM CONSOLIDATED'S RESPONSE

WITH OWENS-ILLINOIS.

4. FYI: DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM, JACOB NTHEBE, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE BLACK GLASS AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION, MET WITH ROBERT J. TOWN, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL AT OWENS-ILLINOIS. ACCORDING TO NTHEBE, TOWN AGREED TO CONSIDER THE PROBLEM OF BLACK TRADE UNION RECOGNITION AND THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES AT CONSOLIDATED. A RECENT REPORT BY THE URBAN TRAINING PROJECT ON PROGRESS TOWARD BLACK TRADE UNION RECOGNITION STATES WITH RESPECT TO CONSOLIDATED THAT, QUOTE: MANAGEMENT INDICATED TO THE UNION THAT IT IS NOT PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE. IT FEELS THAT THE LIAISON COMMITTEE IS THE BEST CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE WORKERS AND MANAGEMENT. IN SPITE OF THIS, WORKERS ARE NOT PREPARED TO RECOGNIZE THE COMMITTEE SYSTEM SINCE IT IS VERY INEFFECTIVE. THE UNION IS PRESSED BY WORKERS TO FORM A WORKS COMMITTEE. SIGNATORIES ARE SOUGHT FROM THE WORKERS AT PRESENT TO TABLE A PETITION TO MANAGEMENT FOR THE FORMATION OF THE WORKS COMMITTEE. NO ORGANIZING FACILITIES OR SHOP STEWARD FACILITIES ARE ALLOWED BY MANAGEMENT. END QUOTE.
JOHNSON

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